Making ICDS universal

4268. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is considering the demands of making the ICDS universal and regularize the services of Anganwadi workers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the commitment of the Government to universalize the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme as envisaged in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP), the ICDS Scheme has been expanded twice in the last two years. The first expansion was in the year 2005-06 when 466 additional ICDS Projects and 1.88 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) were sanctioned. Under the 2nd phase of expansion, during 2006-07, 166 additional Projects and 106726 AWCs and 25943 Mini-AWCs have been sanctioned. With these expansions, the total number of ICDS Projects, AWCs and Mini-AWCs has increased to 6284, 10.53 lakhs and 36829 respectively. The exercise for the 3rd phase of expansion is under way.

The ICDS Scheme envisages AWWs and Helpers as "honorary workers" from the local community who come forward to render the service on part time basis in the area of child care and development.

In view of honorary nature of their services, the question of regularization of their services, does not arise.

Insurance cases for girl child

4269. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to provide an insurance cover for each girl child:

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Government have shown interest in this scheme; and